

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W
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R 081516Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6837

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, GB

SUBJ: GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON

REF: (A) USDOC 13480; (B) LIBREVILLE 1154

1. SIGN RECENTLY WENT UP AT SITE ACROSS FROM EMBASSY STATING THAT SHERATON HOTEL WOULD BE BUILT THERE BY GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON. EMBASSY ALSO HAD TELEX FROM SHERATON'S BRUSSELS OFFICE INQUIRING ABOUT STATUS OF PROJECT. THESE TWO FACTS PLUS INFO CONTAINED IN REF A LEAD EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THAT EITHER THERE IS LACK OF COMMUNICATION SOMEWHERE IN SHERATON ORGANIZATION, OR GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON USING SHERATON'S NAME WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT. IF LATTER CASE TRUE, COULD PROVE TO BE EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS POSITION IN GABON.

2. EMBOFF TRIED TO GET MEETING WITH BERNARD PLE, HEAD OF GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION. PLE REPORTEDLY OUT OF TOWN, AND EMBOFF THUS MET WITH MR. SANI, CAMEROON CITIZEN, WHO SAID HE WAS GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MIAMI'S REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS IN CHARGE OF AFRICA.

3. SANI PROVIDED FOLLOWING "CLARIFICATION" RE HOTEL
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PROJECT, GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION INTERESTED IN GETTING AFRICANS TO INVEST IN LAND AND BUILDING PROJECTS IN MIAMI AREA. WHEN SANI CAME TO GABON FOR THIS PURPOSE, GABONESE ASKED ONLY WHY THEY SHOULD INVEST IN MIAMI WHEN SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS NEEDED HERE. THIS LED TO FORMATION OF GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON, WITH PURPOSE OF BUILDING HOTEL AND DOING OTHER PROJECTS WHICH WOULD SERVE AS CALLING CARD FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND CONVINCE AFRICANS TO INVEST IN MIAMI. GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON REPORTEDLY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL SYSTEMS FRANCE, LOCATED IN PARIS, WHICH IN TURN SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. AMERICAN CITIZEN SIBRINI, WHO ACTIVE IN SETTING UP GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON, IS EMPLOYEE OF GENERAL SYSTEMS FRANCE. HOTEL WILL BE 25 STORIES, ULTRAMODERN, AND BEING PREFABRICATED IN U.S. SANI SAID IT NEARLY 50 PERCENT COMPLETED AND WILL SOON BE SHIPPED TO LIBREVILLE FOR FINAL ASSEMBLY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR USDOC: DETERMINE WHETHER GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAS CAMEROONIAN EMPLOYEE IN PARIS NAMED SANI WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICA AND WHETHER THEY HAVE SUBSIDIARY CALLED GENERAL SYSTEMS FRANCE.

5. FOR PARIS: DOES GENERAL SYSTEMS FRANCE EXIST AND, IF SO, DO THEY EMPLOY AMERICAN CITIZEN SIBRINI AND DO THEY HAVE GABONESE SUBSIDIARY.

6. FOR BRUSSELS: CONTACT A.E. MAS, VICE PRESIDENT, SHERATON MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, AND DETERMINE WHAT CONTACT HE HAS HAD WITH EITHER GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON OR FRANCE REGARDING BUILDING OF SHERATON-MANAGED HOTEL IN LIBREVILLE.

7. EMBASSY THANKS USDOC AND EMBASSIES PARIS AND BRUSSELS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV01422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750310-0335
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750974/aaaacobn.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LIBREVILLE 1154
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL SYSTEMS GABON
TAGS: BBAK, GB
To: COM PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006